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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	NP-00	AID-00	ACQ-00	CEA-01	COME-00	CTME-00
	DINT-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	ITCE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00
	EB-00	EXME-00	E-00	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	VC-00
	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00
	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	IRM-00	SSO-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W	

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P 302132Z NOV 01
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4122
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY MEXICO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
CIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC

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NSC FOR AMBASSADOR MAISTO
OAS FOR SHANNON

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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: ECON, PGOV, PINR, PREL, EIND, ELAB, EPET, ETRD, VE
SUBJECT: THE SHUTDOWN - CHAVEZ'S BATTLE PLAN

REF: A. CARACAS 003421
B. CARACAS 003392

1. SUMMARY: IN RESPONSE TO FEDECAMARAS' (FEDERATION OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE) DECEMBER 10 WORK STOPPAGE, PRESIDENT CHAVEZ HAS PLANNED A SERIES OF COMPETING NATIONAL EVENTS UNDER THE TITLE "THE BATTLE PLAN AGAINST THE OLIGARCH'S STRIKE" TO DIVERT ATTENTION AND MAINTAIN THE APPEARANCE OF CONTROL. END SUMMARY.

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DECEMBER 10 TO BE HOLIDAY?

2. FEDECAMARAS WILL ORGANIZE A NATIONWIDE WORK STOPPAGE ON DECEMBER 10 TO PROTEST THE DECREE LAWS AND PRESIDENT CHAVEZ'S RULE (SEE REFTELS). CHAVEZ IS HASTILY PREPARING A "BATTLE PLAN" TO RESPOND, INCLUDING A POSSIBLE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE TO MAKE DECEMBER 10 A NATIONAL HOLIDAY.

3. THE OSTENSIBLE PURPOSE OF THE HOLIDAY IS TO "CELEBRATE THE INAUGURATION OF THE LAND LAW" WHICH CHAVEZ WILL DO IN A CEREMONY IN BARINAS. HOWEVER, IT IS WIDELY ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE TRUE REASONS FOR THE HOLIDAY ARE TO PROVIDE AN EXCUSE FOR WHY GOV WORKERS MAY NOT SHOW UP ON THAT DAY, AND FOR WHY THE PUBLIC MAY BE OUT ON THE STREETS.

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THE CHAVEZ SCHEDULE

4. IN ADDITION TO THE DECEMBER 10 NATIONAL HOLIDAY, THE FOLLOWING PRO-CHAVEZ ACTIONS HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED:

-- DECEMBER 6 (DAY): LEADERS OF PRESIDENT CHAVEZ'S MVR PARTY ARE PLANNING AN UNDETERMINED "EVENT" IN DOWNTOWN CARACAS (PARQUE CENTRAL) TO SUPPORT CHAVEZ'S "PEACEFUL AND DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION."

-- DECEMBER 6 (EVENING): PRESIDENT CHAVEZ WILL DELIVER A SPEECH (CADENA) ON RADIO AND TELEVISION TO PROMOTE AND STRENGTHEN THE ORGANIZATION OF A NEW MOVEMENT CHAVEZ CALLS "THE REVOLUTIONARY ACTION MOVEMENT." OPPONENTS HAVE PROMISED TO COUNTER WITH A "CACEROLAZO" (THE NOISY BANGING OF POTS AND PANS COMMONLY USED BY VENEZUELAN'S TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT). IN WHAT PROMISES TO BE AN INTERESTING SIGHT, CHAVEZ'S MVR PARTY HAS PLEDGED TO COUNTERACT THE CACEROLAZO WITH EXTENSIVE FIREWORKS DISPLAYS.

-- DECEMBER 7: THERE WILL BE A GATHERING OF CHAVEZ SUPPORTERS (CHAVISTAS) IN FRONT OF THE MIRAFLORES PRESIDENTIAL PALACE PEOPLE'S BALCONY, OR "BALCON DEL PUEBLO." THIS GATHERING IS SCHEDULED TO COUNTERACT A DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CHAVEZ CALLED BY EX-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE ALEJANDRO PENA ESCLUSA AND HIS ORGANIZATION FUERZA SOLIDARIA. IN LIGHT OF THE TROUBLE WHICH OCCURRED NOVEMBER 22 DURING THE LAST CLASH BETWEEN CHAVISTAS AND THE ACCION DEMOCRATICA PARTY, THIS SHOWDOWN MAY TURN VIOLENT.

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-- DECEMBER 8: CHAVEZ WILL TRANSFER THE REMAINS OF INDIAN CHIEF GUAICAIPURO TO THE NATIONAL PANTHEON, AND WILL BE JOINED BY MANY VENEZUELAN INDIGENOUS GROUPS (WHO HAVE TRADITIONALLY SUPPORTED CHAVEZ).

-- DECEMBER 9: CHAVEZ HAS CALLED SMALL FARMERS AND PEASANTS (CAMPEsinOS) FROM THROUGHOUT VENEZUELA TO CONVERGE ON CARACAS TO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE NEW LAND LAW.

-- DECEMBER 10 (DAY): CHAVEZ WILL SPEAK AT THE PROMULGATION (FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT) OF THE NEW LAND LAW IN SANTA INES DE BARINAS IN WESTERN VENEZUELA. AS THIS CONTROVERSIAL LAW HAS BEEN THE MOST POLARIZING, CHAVEZ'S RHETORIC AT THIS SPEECH MAY PORTEND HIS FUTURE REACTIONS TO OPPOSITION.

-- DECEMBER 10 (EVENING): ON THE EVENING OF THE NATIONAL SHUTDOWN, A CHAVISTA GROUP KNOWN AS THE "REVOLUTIONARY PATRIOTIC BLOC" WILL HOLD A PRO-CHAVEZ DEMONSTRATION IN PLAZA CARACAS.

-- DECEMBER 11: IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE CARIBBEAN HEADS OF STATE, CHAVEZ WILL PROMULGATE THE CONTROVERSIAL NEW FISHERIES LAW IN NUEVA ESPARTA (MARGARITA ISLAND). AT THE SAME TIME, CHAVEZ HAS ANNOUNCED A DEMONSTRATION BY THE CRAFT-FISHERMEN (PESCADORES

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	FRB-00	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	ITC-01	LAB-01	L-00
	VCE-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OES-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PC-01	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00
	SSO-00	STR-00	TEST-00	TRSE-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DSCC-00
	DRL-02	G-00	NFAT-00	SAS-00	/011W		

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ARTESANALES) IN SUPPORT OF THE LAW.

-- DECEMBER 17: CHAVEZ PLANS TO FORMALLY RE-LAUNCH HIS ORIGINAL POLITICAL MOVEMENT, THE BOLIVARIAN REVOLUTIONARY MOVEMENT-200 (MBR-200) IN CARACAS. IN THE CEREMONY, HE WILL SWEAR IN THE "REVOLUTION'S POLITICAL COMMAND." IN THE PAST, CHAVEZ HAS SAID HE PLANS TO TRANSFORM MBR-200 INTO A NATIONAL GRASSROOTS POLITICAL SUPPORT GROUP. SIMULTANEOUSLY, CHAVEZ HAS CALLED FOR MEMBERS OF HIS "BOLIVARIAN CIRCLES" TO GATHER IN SUPPORT. THE BOLIVARIAN CIRCLES WERE DESIGNED BY CHAVEZ TO BE NEIGHBORHOOD MVR SUPPORT GROUPS, BUT MANY HAVE COMPARED THEM TO THE CUBAN COMMITTEES FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE REVOLUTION.

5. SUMMARY: CHAVEZ'S BATTLE PLAN HAS BEEN HASTILY ARRANGED TO RESPOND TO WHAT IS GROWING TO BE A MASSIVE NATIONAL SHUTDOWN ORGANIZED BY HIS OPPONENTS. WHETHER CHAVEZ WILL BE ABLE TO TURN THE TIDE OF OPPOSITION BY MUSTERING HIS OWN FORCES REMAINS TO BE SEEN. END SUMMARY.

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